

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 08921 141131Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----101156 141132Z /10

O 141116Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8547  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BONN 08921

EXDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, FR, GW  
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION

1. IN A BRIEF TALK ON A SOCIAL OCCASION LAST NIGHT MAY 13 IN BONN WITH GUIDO BRUNNER, THE GERMAN COMMISSIONER FOR NUCLEAR MATTERS ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, HE SAID HE SAW A "GLIMMER OF HOPE" THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT BE COMING AROUND TO AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION ON THE PROBLEM OF SECURING EURATOM AGREEMENT TO RENEGOTIATION WITH THE US AS CALLED FOR UNDER THE NEW US LAW. HE SAID HE HAD JUST LEARNED IN BONN THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD TELEPHONED GISCARD IN THE LAST FEW DAYS TO URGE A MORE FORTHCOMING FRENCH ATTITUDE. GISCARD APPARENTLY HAD INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY AND HAD SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GO ALONG WITH A FORMULATION WHICH WOULD AGREE TO TALKS, WHILE STIPULATING THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COME ONLY AFTER COMPLETION OF INFCE AND IN THE

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LIGHT OF INFCE RESULTS. GISCARD HAD STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD STILL HAVE SOME MORE TO DO IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT BEFORE ANYTHING ALONG THESE LINES COULD BE AGREED. (BRUNNER HOPED SUCH A FORMULATION COULD BE MADE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US AND WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT IT COULD BE.)

2. BRUNNER REMARKED THAT THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, GIRAUD (FORMERLY RESPONSIBLE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY), IS THE MAIN HARDLINER ON THE WHOLE QUESTION AND THE SOURCE OF MUCH DIFFICULTY IN MOVING THE FRENCH TOWARD A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

3. BRUNNER STRESSED THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THE INFORMATION RELATING TO SCHMIDT'S PHONE CALL AND GISCARD'S REACTION. (IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT BRUNNER BE PROTECTED AS A SOURCE.) HE SAID HE WOULD BE TALKING IN MORE DETAIL WITH AMBASSADOR HINTON ON HIS RETURN TO BRUSSELS EARLY NEXT WEEK AND MIGHT HAVE MORE INFORMATION BY THAT TIME.

4. BRUNNER SAID HE WAS SURE MUCH IN-FIGHTING REMAINED TO BE DONE IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE, TEXTS EXAMINED AND SO ON, BUT HE WAS MORE CONFIDENT THAN PREVIOUSLY THAT "SOMETHING IS MOVING." HE FEELS STRONGLY THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO REMOVE THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BEFORE THE NATO SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND HOPES THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY, BRUNNER SAID IT MIGHT BE WELL AT SOME POINT IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO TELEPHONE GISCARD AND TO MENTION - PERHAPS AMONG SEVERAL OTHER TOPICS - HIS HOPE THAT THE  
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PROBLEM OF THE EURATOM REPLY REGARDING THE US NUCLEAR LEGISLATION COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE THE TWO MEET FOR THEIR BILATERAL IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH. BRUNNER STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS VIEW NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE UNTIL HE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE FURTHER SOUNDINGS AND TO CONSULT IN MORE DETAIL WITH AMBASSADOR HINTON.

6. COMMENT: BRUNNER STRIKES ME AS A CONGENITAL OPTIMIST, BUT ONE CAN HOPE THAT HE'S ON TO SOMETHING THIS TIME.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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